

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR URGENT DELIVERY OF LETTERS TO
DOMEI PRESIDENT AMAIKE AND SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA

1. THERE FOLLOW BELOW IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3 AND 4 RESPECTIVELY LETTERS FROM AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY TO SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA (DATED APRIL 5, A SECOND LETTER TO MAKIEDA (DATED APRIL 10) AND TO DOMEI PRESIDENT AMAIKE (DATED APRIL 11). THE EMBASSY WILL PERCEIVE THE SENSITIVITY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE LETTERS. THE CONTENTS OF THE THREE LETTERS REPRESENT THE "CURRENT COLLECTIVE WISDOM" OF THE AFL-CIO ON THE TOPICS DISCUSSED IN THEM. THE AFL-CIO BELIEVES IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT AMAIKE AND PRESIDENT MAKIEDA "SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE CONTENT OF ALL THREE LETTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME." IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE LABOR ATTACHE WOULD DELIVER COPIES OF THESE LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS MAKIEDA AND AMAIKE SOONEST. THE ORIGINALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MAILED DIRECT

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TO THE ADDRESSEES. WHEN DELIVERING THE LETTERS IT SHOULD BE SAID TO BOTH PRESIDENTS THAT WHEN THEY HAVE DELIBERATED ON THE MATTER, PRESIDENT MEANY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEIR VIEWS.

2. LETTER TO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA:

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"I WISH TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE KIND AND GRACIOUS RECEPTION GIVEN TO THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION BY YOU AND THE LEADERSHIP OF SOHYO DURING VISITS WITH YOU AND SOHYO AFFILIATED UNIONS IN JAPAN IN EARLY MARCH. THE REPORT OF THE DELEGATION IS BEING REVIEWED FOR ITS RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"THE INVITATION OF SOHYO TO ATTEND ITS CONVENTION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO ME AND I HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO THE MATTER. I WOULD PREFER TO DEVELOP OUR ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP OUTSIDE THE SPOTLIGHT OF THE CONVENTION AND A MEETING IN ANY WAY CONNECTED WITH SUCH NECESSARILY HURRIED ACTIVITIES. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SEVERAL DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOHYO AND AFL-CIO ON BASIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES AND THE PROBLEMS OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE WORLD COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR DEEPENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"WHEN GENERAL SECRETARY TOMIZUKA COMES TO WASHINGTON IN MAY, I WILL SUGGEST TO HIM THAT SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL IN WASHINGTON AND ASK THAT HE DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH YOU.

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"WITH MY SINCERE THANKS FOR YOUR COURTESIES TO THE DELEGATION OF THE AFL-CIO AND WITH EVERY GOOD WISH.

"SINCERELY AND FRATERNALLY,

GEORGE MEANY"

3. SECOND LETTER TO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

"FURTHER TO MY LETTER TO YOU OF APRIL 5, 1978, SHOULD YOU AGREE WITH OUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD A CONFERENCE IN THE FALL AT WASHINGTON, IT WOULD GIVE ME PLEASURE TO SEND MY REPRESENTATIVE TO YOUR CONVENTION WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THOSE OTHERS INVITED FROM ABROAD WILL BE FROM NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS WITH WHOM WE WOULD BE ENTIRELY COMFORTABLE.

"IF THIS MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND

I WILL DESIGNATE MY REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND YOUR CON-

VENTION AND COMMENCE TO WORK WITH YOU ON A SUITABLE DATE
IN THE FALL FOR A CONFERENCE BETWEEN SOHYO OFFICIALS
AND THOSE OF THE AFL-CIO AT WASHINGTON.

"WITH BEST WISHES,

"SINCERELY AND FRATERNALLY,

GEORGE MEANY"

3. LETTER TO PRESIDENT AMAIKE

"DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

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"YOUR RECEPTION OF THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION ATTENDING THE DOMEI/AFL-CIO ANNUAL CONVERENCE IN TOKYO LAST MARCH IS MOST DEEPLY APPRECIATED. I HAVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETINGS AND I AM IMPRESSED BY THE DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH YOU AND DOMEI EXHIBIT CONCERNING MATTERS WHICH ARE VITAL TO OUR TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS.

"RELATED TO THE MEETINGS WHICH WERE HELD WITH THE SOHYO ORGANIZATION, I HAVE ADVISED SOHYO PRESIDENT MAKIEDA THAT I WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE SOHYO CONVENTION AND TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE EVEN THOUGH THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE TRADE UNIONS FROM ABROAD WITH WHOM WE HAVE RELATIONS. I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SOHYO PLAN TO MEET WITH THE AFL-CIO IN WASHINGTON IN THE FALL FOR A DISCUSSION OF BASIC TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES AND THE PROBLEMS OF FREE TRADE UNIONS IN THE WORLD. AND, IN MY SECOND COMMUNICATION, AN OFFER WAS MADE TO SOHYO THAT WE WOULD SEND MY REPRESENTATIVE TO THEIR CONVENTION PROVIDED THERE WOULD BE ONLY THOSE INVITEES FROM ABROAD WITH WHOM THE AFL-CIO WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE.

"IN THIS WAY, I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE MET OUR COMMITMENT TO DOMEI AND OUR PLEDGE TO YOU TO WORK CLOSELY IN THIS AREA OF DEEP CONCERN IN A WAY WHICH PRESERVES AND PROTECTS THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

"AGAIN, YOUR COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP ARE APPRECIATED AND RESPECTED.

"WITH KIND REGARDS,

"SINCERELY AND FRATERNALLY, GEORGE MEANY" VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
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